

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. The method of discovering policies in an abstracted routing element comprising:
  - tapping ingress and egress streams at a plurality of connections to the element,
  - filtering ingress and egress streams at the taps,
  - collecting filtered ingress and egress streams from the taps,
  - 10 correlating the collected ingress and egress information, and
  - discovering policies used in the abstracted routing element from the correlated ingress and egress information.
- 15 2. The method of Claim 1 where the abstracted routing element is an Autonomous System.
3. The method of Claim 1 where the abstracted routing element is a combination of Autonomous Systems and networks.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 1 where the policies discovered include routing policies.
5. The method of Claim 4 where routing policies are discovered by comparing prefixes advertised at ingress points with prefixes disseminated at egress points.
- 25 6. The method of Claim 1 where the policies discovered include damping policies.
7. The method of Claim 6 where damping policies are discovered by the steps of:
  - analyzing correlated ingress data to detect flapping at an ingress node, and
  - 30 comparing correlated ingress data indicating flapping with egress data to discover damping policies.
8. The method of Claim 1 further including the step of:
  - comparing discovered policies with predetermined policies.

9. The method of Claim 8 where discovered routing policies are compared with predetermined routing policies.

5 10. The method of Claim 8 where discovered damping policies are compared with predetermined damping policies.

11. The method of Claim 1 further including access control providing limited access to discovered policies based on predetermined access classes.

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12. The method of Claim 8 further including access control providing limited access to the comparison of discovered policies with predetermined policies based on predetermined access classes.